Koigokoro

by Kanda Neko

The End

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Chapter 3

raws > Kalendel

translator > Erin

editor > Shadowlo9

qc > gray altergo

drap COMICS

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PETALS OF LOVE

When I heard

the friend I'd liked ever since my first year of university say that,

I became frantic

to conceal my own feelings.

beep
beep
beep
beep
beep
beep
beep
beep
beep
beep
beep
beep
...I DREAMT ABOUT SHINGO, AGAIN...
sit
It's already been two years since I ran away from him...
I'... still~

Can't forget about Shingo—...
slide...
WEL-COME...
Setsu-TAKA! FIX THAT BED HAIR ALREADY!
Why are you such a slob!?
G'MORN-ING.
Good morning
I won't forgive you even if you're my nephew!
I'VE TOLD YOU TO CALL me 'owner'!
Wait, you're in the way.
You too, Uncle*. Shave that beard already.

* T/N: Setsu uses the word 'ossan' for 'uncle', which is impolite and also means 'old man'.

...
SETSU...
...SHIN
...GO!?
ba-thump
—...I
FINALLY

Two years and three and a half months!! You just up and disappeared after graduation without letting me know!! You moved out of your apartment. You didn't go to the entrance ceremony of the company you'd been hired at. You even changed your phone number. What the hell were you trying to do!? Do you have any idea how worried I was and how I searched everywhere for you!? Setsu!!

Umm.
Shinaga-wa-kun, it's time.
Listen to me!!
There.
HURRY UP AND GET BACK.
EVEN I'M BUSY, YOU KNOW.
Since it's lunchtime now
SEE YOU.
Setsu!!
I'll be back, you hear me!!?
Whirl
Don't you dare disappear again!!
sweaty...

WHY DOES HE THINK I LEFT HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE...
Haa——...
...YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME...
Owner room
YOU WANT TO LEAVE EARLY AND TAKE SOME TIME OFF FOR A WHILE?
Re-ject-ed.
Uncle ...
WHY DO YOU NEED TO RUN AWAY FROM YOUR FRIEND?
WEREN'T YOU GUYS BEST FRIENDS IN COLLEGE?

GOOD WORK TODAY.
gasp
...SHIN-GO...
...YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING YOU WANT TO TELL ME, RIGHT?
Aah——
That necktie looks terrible on you.
So does the suit.
That's not it!!
You don't need to worry about that!

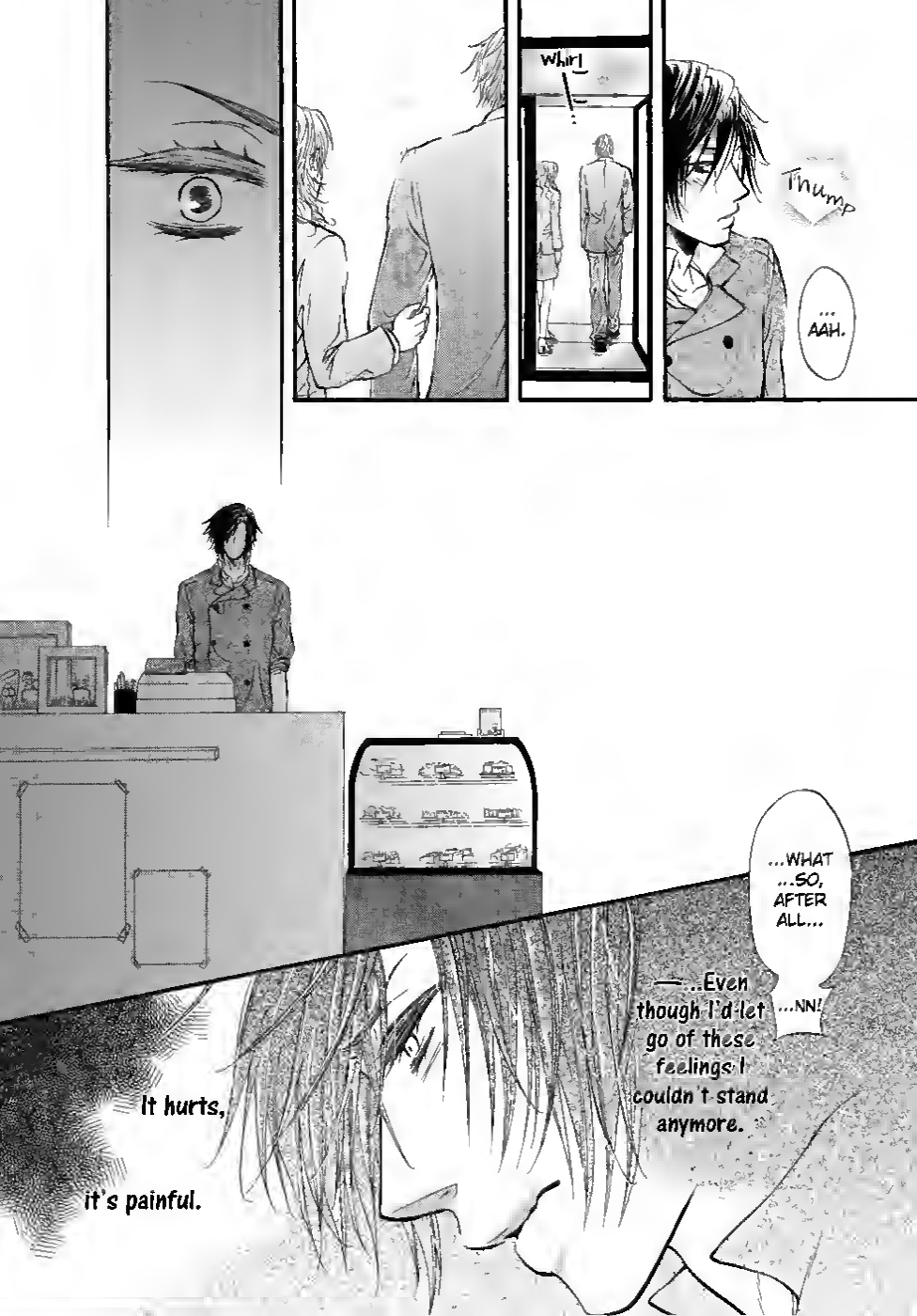
...?
SHIN...
I'VE MISSED YOU.
Really,
WHY ARE YOU SO...!!
...I FINALLY FOUND YOU.
Clench...
...IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT WHY YOU DISAPPEARED, THAT'S FINE.
SO, DON'T...
DISAPPEAR AGAIN.

SETSU-TAKA.
Spacey—
WHAT, DIDN'T SLEEP ENOUGH?
IN THE END, I COULDN'T FALL ASLEEP AFTER THAT...
BUCK UP. LUNCHTIME'LL START SOON.
I have a bad feeling about this.
LUNCH...
Setsu!
You're here!
GIVE ME YOUR PHONE NUMBER LATER. I CAN'T CONTACT YOU NOW.
Fine. Just get to your table already.
You're going to bother the other customers

Your friend sure is cool, Setsuta-ka-san.
The girl he brought with him is cute as well
Oh!
twitch
IS A TABLE NEXT TO THE WINDOW ALL RIGHT, SASAKI?
YES.
They're probably lovers or something, don't you think?
twitch
... HMM...
I WONDER...
Clench...

I still wonder why Although I'd decided to forget about him.

like Shingo this much...


Whirl
Thump
...AAH.
...WHAT ...SO, AFTER ALL...
...NN!
—...Even though I'd let go of these feelings I couldn't stand anymore.
It hurts,
it's painful.

Don't space out in front of the cash register
Oi!
SETSUTAKA? WHAT'S WRONG?
...UNCLE, I'VE GOT A FAVOR TO ASK YOU...
CAN'T YOU SWITCH THE SHIFTS AROUND SO I WON'T HAVE TO MEET SHINGO ANYMORE?
So much so that it feels like I'll be crushed...
JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE, OKAY?
CLOSE...
Sigh
...PLEASE...

ring ring ring
ring ring ring
...HELLO?
It's me That guy came again today
Try to think about me I've got to reject him every day
...SORRY.
I don't know what happened, but there's a limit to how much I can switch the shifts around
Hurry up and work things out with him.
Bye
...But I just want a little more time...
I need to get over him already...
I can't keep causing trouble for everyone.
dingdong
dingdong
Guess they're here to collect payment for the newspaper today..
Rustle
Click
YES...?
grab

BAM
NN...!
...SHIN-GO...!?
...ARE YOU PLANNING TO RUN AWAY AGAIN...?
HUH...
...I WON'T FORGIVE YOU...
Disap-pearing from my side!
I won't allow that!!

DO YOU REALIZE HOW MUCH OF A SHOCK IT WAS TO ME WHEN YOU DISAPPEARED!?
WHY...?
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW PAINFUL THESE PAST 2 YEARS HAVE BEEN FOR ME!?
Why ...?
I...
DON'T YOU KNOW... HOW MUCH I CARE ABOUT YOU...!?
Why ...?

I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU. I COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE...
IF I LEFT YOUR SIDE,
I THOUGHT THESE FEELINGS WOULD DISAPPEAR ON THEIR OWN...
Why... —?
SLIP...
...I LOVE YOU...

RUB
RUB
RUB
RUB
You idiot ...!
...!? What...!
SLID...
SE-TSU ...
But, even now, these feelings are only growing.
I LOVE YOU TOO.
Squeeze...

YOU... YOU'RE LYING.
YOU ALWAYS HAD A GIRL-FRIEND... AND WHAT ABOUT THE GIRL FROM YOUR WORK...?
THERE'S NOTHING GOING ON WITH SASAKI,
AND ANY GIRLFRIENDS UP UNTIL NOW HAVE ONLY BEEN SUBSTITUTES FOR YOU.
BECAUSE BACK THEN, YOU SAID "IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE"...
THAT WAS...
AAH, WE'LL TALK LATER.
SO, FOR NOW
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO MAKE YOU MINE.

SORRY ...
I CAN'T HOLD BACK...
IT'S FINE...
QUICKLY... SO I CAN BECOME YOURS,
ba-
thump
MAKE ME BELIEVE THIS IS REALLY HAPPENING.
SETSU ...
... Shingo ...

When he touches me,
I'm so happy,
and so glad
thrust
AH...
that I trem-ble.
SHIN... GO...
Haa...

This is like a dream.
Whoa...!
Amazing... I'm really happy, but...
covered in kiss marks
LOOKS LIKE FLOWER PETALS.
I thought you disappeared again.
Trauma
Please wake me up when you get up.
Setsu
SHINGO.
What should I do... I'm so happy,
I don't think I can ever let him go.
Even though I have work today...
The END